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# City of Southport

# August 2023 Newsletter

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## A Community Update from Mayor J.P. Hatem, MD, MPH

August is a month of transition as we try to make it through the month without a hurricane; as we transition from the last full month of summer; we transition to the opening of schools; we transition to find a Director of Development Services as Travis Henley's last day will be August 18th; we transition as we continue to interview for a Finance Director and we

continue to open our doors to family and friends who visit and enjoy Southport along with the thousands of tourists from all over the state, the country, and surrounding communities who enjoy our downtown, the yacht basin, and the great shopping, delicious food, and salubrious breezes.

August 14th is the Southport Symposium 2 pm-4 pm at the Southport Community Building featuring our Police Department. Under Chief Todd Coring, we have a superb department and I look forward to their presentation this is one more way in which our police interact with our citizens.

August continues the tradition of the Southport Flag Lowering Ceremony, at 7:30 pm at Ed Harper Waterfront Park. The Southport Summer Market continues on Wednesdays from 9 am-2 pm. The last day of the market will be August 30th. The school will be starting on Monday, August 28th and we support our schools, students, and teachers.

In August, we make the necessary transitions while continuing to enjoy the days of summer. We remain vigilant during hurricane season, we support our police, we attend the flag-lowering and summer market and we support our schools as we seek city staff to continue the work for our citizens and community.

Southport City Hall, 1029 N. Howe Street, Southport, NC 28461

(910) 457-7900 [www.cityofsouthport.com](http://www.cityofsouthport.com)



# August 2023 Newsletter

## Meet... Sydney Heil Community Building Manager

### What is your position? How long have you been with the City?

I work in the Community Relations department as the Community Building Manager. I manage the operations of the Indian Trail Meeting Hall and Community Building, which includes creating the rental contracts, meeting with potential renters, filming the city meetings that take place at each building, and more! I've been working for the City of Southport for four months.

### Describe the mission of the department.

I believe the mission of the department is to provide exceptional experiences to both visitors and residents. Working for the Community Relations department has been amazing because I've been able to learn more about Southport, get involved, and talk to interesting people every day.



### What are some of your goals/aspirations for the upcoming year?

We are in the process of updating the Bridal Suite in the Community Building into a multi-purpose room called the Coastal Suite, which will be better able to cater to the needs of the variety of events held in the building. I am also interested in making the Community Building more accessible to those in the community and hosting a variety of events here.

### What did you do before you moved to Southport?

Before moving to the area, I lived in Tiffin, Ohio where I went to Heidelberg University and graduated with my degree in Early Childhood Education and Intervention Specialist. Once I moved to North Carolina, I was Director of Operations for a local childcare company before switching paths and working for the city!

### What do you like to do in your time off?

In my time off, I love reading, hiking, and exploring new places. There are so many hidden gems in the surrounding areas and my dog, Auggie, loves to tag along!

### Complete this sentence. "Southport is..."

Southport is a special place that has something for everyone to enjoy.

# August 2023 Newsletter

## Southport Forestry Committee

### Southport Tree Champion

A Southport Tree Champion will be recognized at the Alderman's meeting on August 10 at 6:00 pm at the Southport Community Building. What and who is this all about?

Keep reading.



Southport is known for its urban forest. Take a walk around town. In the summer heat, the shade of those mature live oaks helps make it possible to enjoy all that Southport has to offer, including the trees themselves. When asked what drew them to settle in the city, new residents' comments often include mention of the trees, with a sigh of remembrance of that first impression. Long-time residents can be passionate about preserving these beautiful live oaks that are a part of the fabric and history of Southport.

One such live oak advocate was Betty Timberlake, a founding member and former chair of the Forestry Committee, who put her enthusiasm to work in getting others to notice and care about these trees. Through her family's foundation, she contributed nearly 350 live oak trees that were planted throughout the town over 20 years. She created the "Where is this tree?" contest with the State Port Pilot, and she initiated the Tree Champion program to recognize those whose activities demonstrate exceptional consideration for maintaining our distinctive urban forest.

In the wake of all the development that has been happening and the collateral damage to the number and health of mature trees, the Forestry Committee has decided to take a positive approach in recognizing those who make efforts to preserve our beautiful forest, by bringing back the Tree Champion program.

Recognition as a Tree Champion is for those who contribute in a meaningful way to preserving or increasing the tree canopy, especially the live oaks, in our town. Some examples include but are not limited to, designing or placing new structures to preserve mature trees, replacing removed trees with more or larger-sized trees than required, educating others about tree care and maintenance, or donating (any amount) to the purchase of trees for planting on public property. Either individuals or groups of people may be nominated. What if there were a developer who could be recognized for special tree-related efforts?!

Do you know someone who could qualify as a tree champion? Anyone may nominate a person or group by submitting the form on the Tree Champion tab on our webpage. The nominee or nominator do not necessarily have to be residents of Southport, but the benefit of the recognized activity must ultimately be to trees in the municipality or its extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ). As you travel about town keep an eye open for positive efforts related to trees and nominate those responsible for Tree Champion recognition.

Please plan to attend the Alderman's meeting on 10 at 6:00 pm at the Southport Community Building to applaud Allison Scouler, the first recipient of our re-established Tree Champion recognition award. She will receive a Southport Tree Champion certificate presented by Mayor Hatem and the Forestry Committee for her special efforts to preserve a beautiful mature live oak and other trees on her lot when building her house on Clarendon Avenue. Join us in celebrating Ally's contribution to our city's treescape.

# August 2023 Newsletter



Animal Protective Services



## DOG DAYS of Summer



Make a frozen treat for your furry friend. Freeze a Kong filled with a mixture of wet pet food or create a pet friendly fruit-filled popsicle using ice trays.

Turn your backyard into a pet-friendly water park by setting up a sprinkler or shallow kiddie pool. Supervise their playtime and make it even more exciting by tossing in floating toys or treats.



Soak a bandana in water and tie around your pet for a fashionable cooling accessory. Or invest in a cooling mat.



Arrange a cozy nook with soft bedding in a cool, shaded corner of your home. Use a pet-friendly fan to complete your cooling zone.



### COOL IDEAS FOR HOT DOGS

It's important to **NEVER** try to drastically lower your dog's temperature.



Ice baths and encouraging them to drink very cold water can send their bodies into shock.

# August 2023 Newsletter

## Southport Beautification Committee

Next Clean-up: September 2, 2023

Whew! What a month July was for Southport's Beautification Committee. And for Southport!

We worked hard to stain as many benches and tables as we could at Waterfront Park all while weeding the gardens and spiffing them up for the many residents and visitors that come downtown for the 4th of July events. Many of the park signs around the city were also painted. Then of course there was Southport's fabulous 4th of July Parade as well. You may have seen many of us on the float waving to everyone. What a great time!



The 4th may be behind us and the City is a little quieter but we're still working around Southport. We've started building more benches and tables and staining them. The benches and tables that we built for Taylor Field were such a hit that we've been asked to build more. No days at the beach for us! Seriously though, we enjoy our work and love to volunteer and help keep Southport looking great.

While our regular workdays, held once a month on Saturday, are on hold during the summer, keep an eye out for Beautification Committee Pop-Up Work Days where we continue sprucing things up. Come and join us. We can always use the help and you'll be able to say "I did that!"

## Southport Historical Society Annual Christmas Tour of Homes



Be part of a 30-year Southport tradition - Include your home in this year's Holiday Tour of Homes!

Sat. Dec. 9th, 12 - 5

Contact us for more information:  
910-477-3461  
[info@southporthistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@southporthistoricalsociety.org)



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# August 2023 Newsletter

## 1979 Southport Phone Directory

By the Southport Historical Society

Recently we received a donation of a 1979 Southport Phone Directory, covering Southport-Long Beach-Yaupon Beach-Caswell Beach.

This vintage phone directory came from the home of Mrs. Alice Lucille (Morris) Gore. Alice was born in January 1925 in Northwest, NC. Miss Alice made Southport her home in 1945 when she married Southport native and WWII veteran, Edgar Gore.

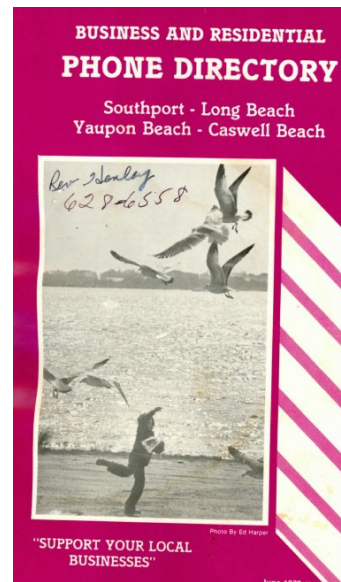
Edgar's career spanned 31 years in Brunswick County. He served as an educator at Lincoln High School, then as an Administrator at North Brunswick High School, before retiring as Science Supervisor for all of Brunswick County Schools. Edgar and Alice lived at 510 N. Lord Street until Edgar built a new house for them at 411 N. Lord St. Alice and Edgar raised four children in Southport. Their daughter, Alexis Gore Graves, lives in the family's historic home at 510 N. Lord St.

Alice was a member of Mt. Carmel AME Church for more than 70 years. Church service was an important part of Alice's life. On the front of the phone directory, "Reverend Henley 628-6558" was handwritten for quick reference. Reverend Henley was the pastor of Mt. Carmel AME from 2012-2015.

We appreciate this donation which offers insights into daily life over forty years ago, such as:

- This was the first year that a local Southport directory was created. 15,000 copies were published and distributed for free to permanent residents, businesses, motels, and summer cottages.
- The entire directory which includes business and personal numbers, is only 66 pages long.
- Only two exchanges were used: 457 for Southport numbers and 278 for Oak Island
- Although the first 911 service was established in 1968, it had yet to reach the Southport area by 1979. Residents who were in need of help had to dial different 7-digit numbers to reach police, fire, or ambulance assistance. Each town had its own set of numbers.

You can [click here](#) to view the directory. Let us know what memories it inspires!



## Want more Southport History?



Discover Southport History

# WHITTLES BENCH

SOUTHPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

email [info@southporthistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@southporthistoricalsociety.org)

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# August 2023 Newsletter

## A Reminder from Southport Police Department

*All Golf Carts Should be registered by July 1.*

Southport Police Department held 5 successful "registration stations" at the Wednesday Franklin Square Summer Market in May and June! We want to remind you that all carts should be registered as of July 1. If not, you are in violation. The 2024 sticker must be displayed on the rear LEFT corner of your cart.

If you currently have a City of Southport registered golf cart and you still need to renew/update your sticker, you may complete the Registration Form found online at [www.cityofsouthport.com/police-department/#police-issued-permits](http://www.cityofsouthport.com/police-department/#police-issued-permits) and bring it to the City of Southport Utilities Department along with your payment of \$25.00 cash or check to receive your new sticker. Mail in service is not available.

If you reside in Rivermist and wish to register your cart, please call 910-457-7911 to schedule an appointment. An Officer will come to your home to inspect.

If you have a NEW golf cart, have never had yours inspected, or have made modifications since you last registered, call our office at 910-457-7911. Appointments will be scheduled Monday - Friday between the hours of 2 - 5 pm.

Golf Cart  
Registration



# August 2023 Newsletter

## Caswell Avenue Community Garden

### Heart Gardens

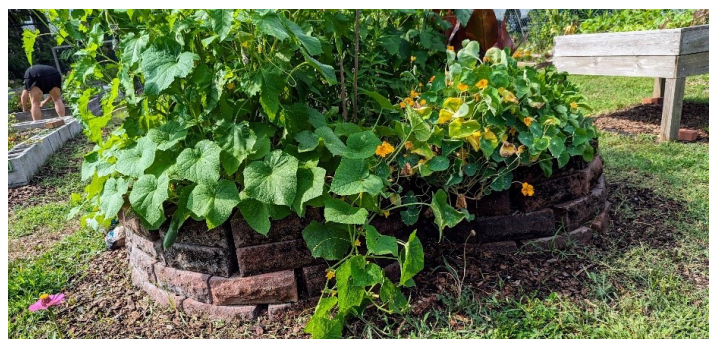
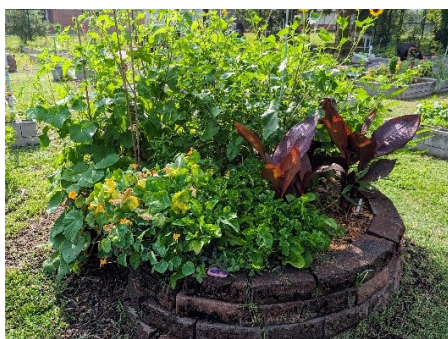
Heart Gardens is what I dubbed them: the pretty, heart-shaped raised beds in the Caswell Avenue Community Garden (CACG). They stand out for their shape, their composition, and because there are only two of them. They are higher than the cinderblock beds and have a flat outer surface which makes them nice to sit on occasionally as you tend the garden. Thanks to two of our members, Molla Donaldson and Kerrie Boyan (pictured here) I've learned that they're actually Keyhole Gardens! And there's a much bigger story behind them.



Keyhole Gardens resemble the hole that skeleton keys fit into a lock. They were introduced in Zimbabwe and Lesotho in Africa in the 1990s. These areas of the world are hard hit with drought and the soil is easily compacted by walking on it. Keyhole Gardens are

raised, stone-structured beds that feature a center composting area to continuously feed the entire garden. These gardens allow the people to grow their own food where it was impossible beforehand. It's thought that three keyhole gardens, which allow for crop rotation, can feed a family of 10 for a year. It truly is miraculous. Much more information on Keyhole Gardens may be found here: <https://insteadin.com/blog/keyhole-garden/>

We are fortunate to have a couple of Keyhole Gardens in CACG. We hope you'll find us behind the Southport Campus of Brunswick County Community College. We would love to show them to you!



Caswell Avenue Community Garden of Southport, NC: [www.facebook.com/groups/483761655007537](https://www.facebook.com/groups/483761655007537)

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# August 2023 Newsletter

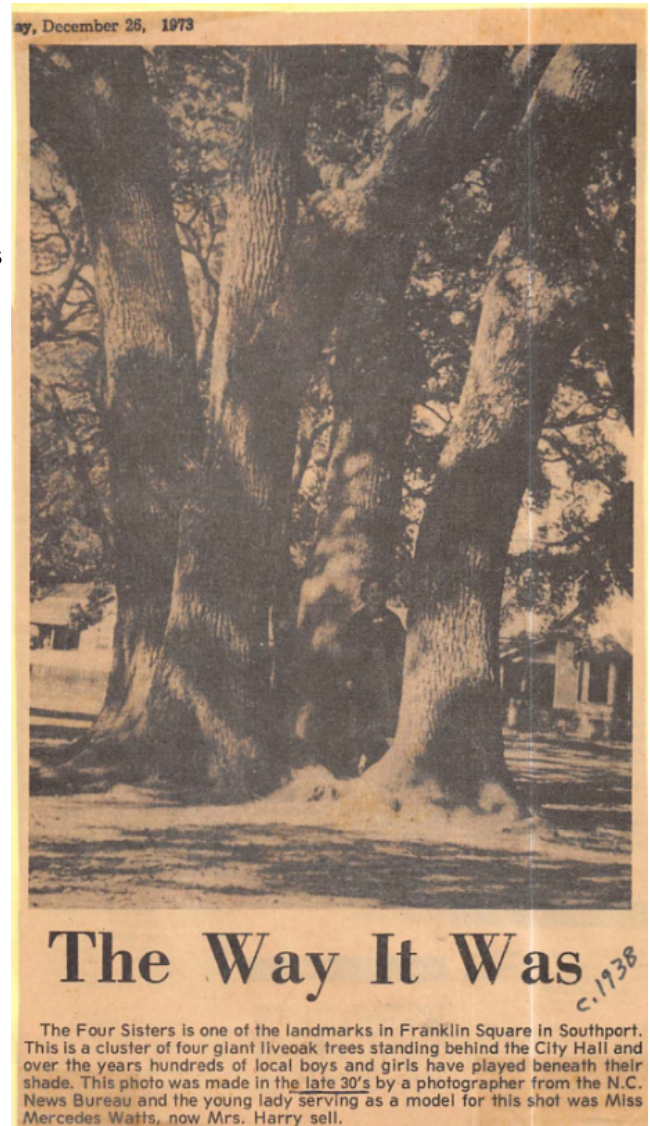
## A Glimpse of History: LIVE OAK – *Quercus virginiana*: One of Southport's most beautiful and distinctive features

from *Southport Historical Society Newsletters, The Whittler's Bench, February 14, 1989*, by Flora Greensleeves

One of Southport's most beautiful and distinctive features is an abundance of graceful old live oak trees shading the streets and gardens. Among the last remnants of the vast live oak forest that once covered the outer coastal plain from Virginia southward, these trees are well adapted to our sandy soils and have great tensile strength against the ravages of Atlantic storms. So, whether by nature of design, the live-oak was an ideal choice for Southport streets and gardens. Indeed, Southport people have long had a special love for their oaks, as is evident from the large number of trees that have been preserved to reach maturity, and by the numerous spots in which a street or sidewalk bends in deference to an elderly tree.

While today we see the live-oak only as an ornamental shade tree, our forebears viewed it with a more practical eye. John Lawson, whose 1713 history extolled the Carolina colony's natural resources, noted that the heavy, durable wood of the live-oak was an excellent material for shipbuilding. "...The firmness and the great Weight there- of, frightens our Sawyers from the Fatigure that attends the cutting of this Timbre," he declared, but "A Nail once driven therein, tis next to an Impossibility to draw it out." He commented that the wood was also used for window frames, mallets, and pins for blocks.

Lawson and other early writers were interested, too, in the ways that the native Indians used live-oak acorns in their cooking. Mark Catesby reported that the acorns were used to thicken venison stew and that an oil extracted from them was "...very pleasant and wholesome, little inferior to that of almonds." Lawson added that the Indians knew how to make a cocoa-like substance from the acorns "...whereof they have made a Chocolate, not to be distinguished by a good Palate." In the long run, however, it was the shipyard rather than the kitchen that made the Southern live-oak famous. European oak had long been favored for shipbuilding, and the colonists were quick to discover that American live-oaks were as good, if not better, for framing ships and boats. Because live-oaks begin branching relatively close to the ground, they could not supply long planks for decking and sides, but the thick joins and curved limbs



# August 2023 Newsletter

## A Glimpse of History: One of Southport's most beautiful and distinctive features

*Continued*

were perfectly suited for making the ribs and knees of vessels. By the early 1800's, live-oak was in such demand for naval vessels that the federal government began contracting with Northern shipbuilders to send teams of workers south where they would harvest huge quantities of live-oak timber and rough-cut it to the desired shapes before sending it on to the shipyards. "Live-oaking", as this practice was called, continued on a massive scale throughout most of the nineteenth century.

Not surprisingly, the live-oak forests were quickly depleted, forcing operations to move further and further southward. Resources along the Cape Fear must have been exhausted at an early date. A government survey made between 1815 and 1817 indicates that only 300 sound trees remained on Smith Island (Bald Head) - a mere trifle when the Navy required about 600 live-oaks to frame just one ship of the line. The live-oaking industry ended when wooden ships became obsolete, but the use of wood for decorative purposes and trim work continued long after.

Botanically, the live-oak is a member of the beech family, Fagaceae, and grows naturally only in the sandy soils of the southern and Gulf coasts. In an uncrowded area, the live-oak may reach 60 or more feet in height with a trunk up to 7 feet in diameter. Its branches are typically very long and spread in a broad graceful arc. Live oaks frequently become gnarled or grow in strangely bent shapes which adds character and charm to their appearance, as may be seen in Southport's well-known landmark, the so-called "Indian Trail Tree". Live-oak is also one of the few oaks that remain green all year, shedding its old leaves in spring as new ones grow in. With its remarkable strength, beauty, and longevity, the live-oak is truly a magnificent tree, and Southport is especially fortunate to have many fine examples.



*Pilot  
July 13, 1988*

### THE WAY IT WAS

*(c) 1930*

This was the Indian Trail Tree as it looked in the 1930's. Notice that there is enough clearance between the two stumps for a grown man to crawl through. Also notice the stripped down truck to the left of the tree. That is a part of a wood-sawing rig which had set up operations on the vacant lot at the

corner of Moore and Lord streets. The Indian Trail Tree has continued to grow and no longer are the two stumps separated by crawl space. The lot has been cleaned up and beautified and now is the location of Keziah Park, honoring the founder of *The State Port Pilot*.

# We're Hiring!



**COME  
JOIN  
OUR  
TEAM**

## OPEN POSITIONS:

- Building Inspector
- Public Works Maintenance Worker
- Recreation Assistant
- Permit Tech
- Development Services Director

If you are interested in applying for a job with the City of Southport, be aware that we utilize the NEOGOV platform. We do not accept paper or walk-in applications.

Scan or click here to apply now!



# August

## Years of Service

*Kevin Alley, 17 Years – 8.3.2006*  
Fleet Maintenance Supervisor

*Laura Ahneman, 14 Years – 8.23.2009*  
Volunteer EMS Member

*Michael Spicer-Frederick, 8 Years – 8.3.2015*  
Public Services Supervisor

*James Whitley, Jr., 8 Years – 8.3.2015*  
Volunteer Fire Lieutenant

*Jeremy Buckhanan, 7 Years – 8.2.2016*  
Fleet Maintenance Technician

*Teresa Jones, 7 Years – 8.31.2016*  
Accounting Manager/Tax Collector

*Robin Clark, 6 Years – 8.22.2017*  
Building & Janitorial Supervisor

*Christopher Geho, 4 Years – 8.31.2019*  
Volunteer Firefighter

# August

*Continued*

*Brandon Stevens, 3 Years – 8.25.2020*  
Deputy Finance Director

*Jeremy Kennedy, 2 Years – 8.3.2021*  
Facilities Maintenance Specialist

*James McIntyre, 2 Years – 8.31.2021*  
Grounds Maintenance Worker

*Alan Davies, 1 Year – 8.9.2022*  
Firefighter

*Mason Madison, 1 Year – 8.9.2022*  
Firefighter

*Paul Homick, 1 Year – 8.9.2022*  
EMS Captain

*Keith Vanhousen, 1 Year – 8.9.2022*  
Firefighter

Congratulations on achieving this anniversary with us! We know you have worked hard for this accomplishment and we truly appreciate your dedication.

# August 2023 Newsletter

## Barbecue Pork and Penne Skillet

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/barbecue-pork-and-penne-skillet/print/>

### Ingredients:

- 1 package (16 ounces) of penne pasta
- 1 cup chopped sweet red pepper
- 3/4 cup chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 carton (16 ounces) refrigerated fully cooked barbecued shredded pork
- 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes with mild green chiles, undrained
- 1/2 cup beef broth
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1-1/4 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup chopped green onions

### Instructions

1. Cook pasta according to package directions.
2. In a large skillet, saute red pepper and onion in butter and oil until tender.
3. Add garlic; saute for 1 minute longer.
4. Stir in the pork, tomatoes, broth, cumin, pepper, and salt; heat through.
5. Drain pasta. Add pasta and cheese to the pork mixture; stir until blended.
6. Sprinkle with green onions. (*optional*)



# August 2023 Newsletter

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR THE  
SOUTHPORT CONCERT SERIES?



WE'VE MOVED TO FALL!

Rest assured, the concerts will be just as amazing as ever! The new schedule will run from August 31 to November 16, and the venue will remain at Franklin Square Park.



## Community Building

### Inaugural Artisan Market and Fundraiser

The Southport Community Building is proud to announce its inaugural Artisan Market and Fundraiser, an event that combines local artisans with the spirit of community support.

August 5th, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



## JOIN US FOR THE 2023 SOUTHPORT FOOD TRUCK RODEO

August 5, 2023, 11a-3p

IN FRONT OF THE  
FORT JOHNSTON VISITOR'S CENTER WITH  
THE BACK PORCH ROCKERS ON THE LAWN



# August 2023 Newsletter



## Southport Symposium

Southport Community Building, 2-4pm

Come out to the Community Building to hear from the City of Southport Department Representatives to learn more about your City! There will be a presentation and Q & A session with representatives from City Departments.

- February 13 City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Animal Protective Services, Human Resources
- March 13 Community Relations
- April 17 Development Services
- May 22 Hurricane Expo Hosted by Fire Department 5-8pm
- June 12 Mayor Board of Aldermen

*Completed*

- July 17 Finance & Utilities
- August 14 Police Department
- September 18 Parks & Recreation
- October 16 Fire Department
- November 13 Public Services

**Registration is required.**  
You can register by visiting: <https://forms.gle/P6i6TVna64jEXH4t6>



# August 2023 Newsletter



Animal Protective Services

**Be cautious when using the Dog Park during high heat index days. The reading below was taken of the grass in the large dog area at noon.**



## Is The Ground Too Hot For My Dog's Paws?



### BLACKTOP/ ASPHALT

At just 87°F (30.6°C), asphalt can heat up to as high as 143°F (61.7°C). Crazy.

### SAND

At around 90°F (32°C), sand can get as hot as 120°F to 130°F (49°C to 54.4°C).

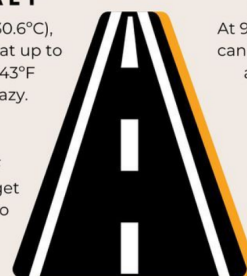


### CONCRETE/ CEMENT

At 95°F (35°C), cement can heat up to as high as 125°F (51.6°C).

### GRASS

At 95°F (35°C), grass is about 105°F (40.6°C) in the sun, and 91°F (32.8°C) in the shade.



# SUMMER FUN

## At Harper Library

### River Readers Middle School Book Club: 1st & 3rd Thursdays in August @ 4p

Hosted by the Southport Woman's Club. Grab your friends and join us for our 6-session middle school book club! The first five participants receive complimentary copies of all six books from FOLSO! For grades 6th-8th. Call 910-457-6237 to register now.

August 3: Tuck Everlasting by Babbit & August 17: Morning Sun in Wuhan by Compestine

### S.I.E. Science is Elementary - Wednesdays August 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd @ 4pm

Join Rotary and Brunswick Arts Council for interactive science fun! For grades K-2nd. Call 910-457-6237 to register now.



# August 2023 Newsletter



## AUGUST AT A GLANCE



### UPCOMING CITY MEETINGS

Cemetery Committee Meeting  
August 1 @ 1:00 pm - ITMH

Historic Preservation Commission  
August 2 @ 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm - ITMH

Board of Aldermen Agenda Meeting  
August 4 @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm - ITMH

Forestry Committee Meeting  
August 8 @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - ITMH

Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting  
August 8 @ 6:30 pm - ITMH

Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting  
August 10 @ 6:00 pm - SCB

Planning & Zoning Board Meeting  
August 17 @ 6:00 pm - SCB

Zoning Board of Adjustments  
August 22 @ 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm ITMH

ABC Board Meeting  
August 23 @ 6:00 pm – ABC Store  
714 N Howe St, Southport, NC 28461

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Southport Flag Lowering Ceremony,  
hosted by the Sisters of Southport and  
the Southport Police Dept  
Nightly @ 7:30 pm, Southport  
Waterfront

2023 Southport Summer Market  
Wednesdays, 10 am - Franklin Sq Park

Southport Community Building  
Artisan Market and Fundraiser  
August 5 @ 10:00 am - 6:00 pm - SCB

2023 Southport Food Truck Rodeo  
August 5 @ 11:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Fort Johnston Lawn

City meetings are open to the public. The City of Southport does not discriminate based on disability. If you need an auxiliary aid or service or other accommodation to attend or fully participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk's office as far in advance as possible so that your request can be considered.

Southport Community Building (SCB)  
223 East Bay Street

Indian Trail Meeting Hall (ITMH)  
110 West Moore Street

Southport City Hall, 1029 N. Howe Street, Southport, NC 28461

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